

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2002
School of Social Work
University of Washington
Seattle, WA**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Marc Avni, Martha Becker, Pat Carroll, Gabe Cohen, Cleo Corcoran, Timmie Faghin, Lee Gaylor, Will Parry, Mae Shields, Karen Sluiter, Suzanne Wiley,
Absent: Suzanne Gehring, Randy Hayhurst
Excused: Thelma Coney, Juanita Grant, Helen Spencer, Greg Stack, Fred Yee
Guests: John Kennedy

STAFF: Margaret Casey, Rosemary Cunningham, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Pam Piering, Maria Ramirez, Allison Ruff, Karen Winston

GUESTS: John Kennedy

Minutes

Karen Sluiter, Chair, convened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. The minutes of the December 14, 2001 were approved.

W4A Lobby Day in Olympia:

During the W4A Lobby Day in Olympia on February 5th Advisory Council members noted that some legislators commented that, "we haven't felt the pain yet". The implication is, the voters won't be willing to consider tax increases or revenue reform until they first feel the real consequences of revenue loss. Circumstances are completely different from the times when the tax initiatives were passed. Then, money was flush and programs could be backed up as necessary. Now, there's a serious possibility that the next revenue forecast, due February 18, might be even grimmer than last November's. If it is, then the legislators will make deeper cuts into the Governor's proposed budget. The Senate Ways & Means budget is due February 25 - and the House Appropriations budget will quickly follow. The Ways & Means budget will be the high water mark, whereas the Appropriations budget will definitely be lower.

2002 State Legislature: *Nancy Amidei* spoke with the Council about politics in Olympia for 2002. Nancy suggested several things that need to be done. Close the tax loops – figure out which ones work and which ones don't work, then start to sunset them. Another serious possibility is revisiting the motor excise tax. Initiative creator Tim Eyman came up with a limit of \$30 tax limit but, she pointed out, the legislature passively allowed this to happen. They had an excellent opportunity to suggest a better way – but they didn't.

Between now and the 25th (date for the Senate Ways & Means budget) Nancy strongly advises making continuous contact with our legislators. Ask them to talk to their colleagues on Ways & Means and Appropriations; talk to committee chairs and ranking committee members; and most importantly, identify a champion on both committees. She suggested targeting people of color in the legislature and/or focus on districts with large populations of color. They are the most likely to listen to and understand our issues.

Nancy noted that our lawmakers need a 2/3 vote before they are able to add any new revenue source. With the Senate split 25/24 and the House split 58/48 that's practically impossible. She said the most important message to get across is – before cutting services we must close the tax loopholes. We should also get this message across at the upcoming Town Hall Meetings on February 23 & 24. Timing, she

says, is essential because these meetings are being held just before the Way & Means budget is released on the 25th. Nancy's suggestions for the Town Hall Meetings: 1) Show up with "There's no place like home" stickers; speak out and wear the stickers, both will be noticed and remembered.

2) Arrange for agency/program site visits to get across one or two simple points; 3) Work on campaigns or help put on issue forums. Remember, it's imperative that the R's and D's in both rural and urban areas hear the same message again and again.

"Also," she warned, "don't forget, the two-year budget is going to be worse and will have a longer economic impact."

Committee Reports

Health Care Task Force: *Martha Becker* reported that as of January 1, 2002, laws are changing for HMO participants who are on Medicare. Participants will be allowed to change providers only once a year. Unfortunately, because of budgetary constraints, information will not be sent out to individual Medicare & Medicaid recipients. If you have a problem, please call the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services general information number at 1-800-Medicare. Or, for troubleshooting, call Andrew Tartella at 206/ 615-2412.

Planning & Allocations: *Suzanne Wiley* reported that most P&A committee members are new and the committee is going through an informational catch up period. At the February 13th meeting *Rosemary Cunningham* will give a presentation on targeting – who is our target population, who is underrepresented and how we gather this information. Data on who uses nutrition and long term services will soon be printed out by districts and become available to the AC later this year.

Housing Task Force: *Margaret Casey* reported in the absence of Greg Stack. Given the availability of issues and the number of issues to be addressed by the Advisory Council, the Housing Task Force recommends not having an on-going task force this year. Instead, under Greg Stack's continuing leadership, an ad hoc UNIVERSAL DESIGN (UD) Workgroup, and the on-going work of ADS staff will continue to implement the various aspects of the UD workplan. A Status Report, dated Jan. 28, 2002, was mailed out in the Advisory Council February mailing. Staff and any members of the Advisory Council will continue to recommend Advocacy on a variety of Housing issues. Staff will continue to address "Affordable Housing" options, especially through tenant and project based Section 8 expansion efforts.

Transportation Issues (based upon the brief discussion at the Advisory Council Retreat that **Housing and Transportation should be combined**): *Margaret Casey*, ADS staff on Transportation issues and to the "Key Partners' Transportation Discussion Group" reported that ADS is the convener of this group. The intent is to bring transportation providers to the table to communicate and troubleshoot various problems and issues related to "Specialized Transportation" options for adults with disabilities. The first issue being addressed is the interface of issues between Adult Day Health Centers and Transportation providers. Also, as soon as the proposed WACs (WA. State Administrative Code) revisions are available, this group will make pertinent comments.

The Group is already preparing a presentation for the State Association of Adult Day Health Centers regarding Guidelines for new Adult Day Health Centers that may be coming on line.

While Karen Sluiter currently is attending these "Discussions" it would be helpful to have a different and regular AC member participate in these transportation discussions as the liaison back to the Council.

Participants include METROAccess, Senior Services' Volunteer Transportation, HopeLink's Medicaid Transportation, WADSA, etc

Planning & Allocation: *Karen Winston* reported that the committee did not meet last month.

Outreach & Advocacy *Gabe Cohen* welcomed *Cleo Corcoran* as co-chair for Outreach and Advocacy Committee. The committee had a brainstorming session today on advocacy issues, and will continue brainstorming next month on outreach issues. Gabe reminded everyone that outreach and advocacy issues constantly come up in every committee & task force and that it's important that the O&A Committee is kept informed when they do. He also urged everyone to use the Senior Lobby hotline: 1-800-562-6118.

Director's Report: *Pam Piering* reported that W4A has published a new Newsletter, which is very informative. The January issue was mailed out to the AC. February's issue will have a report on the W4A Lobby Day last Tuesday and a summary on statewide network issues.

Councilmember Richard McIver now chairs the City Council’s Human Services Committee. We will invite Councilmember McIver to our Advisory Council meetings to get him familiar with our work and projects.

We now have an on-line survey available from our contracts agencies. They responded to questions about how well ADS is doing its job. There were also comments about funding and some general issues. A copy of the survey will be included in the March AC mailing.

Announcements

- Presidents' Day Rally will be held in Olympia on Monday, February 18th. **Will Parry** encouraged everyone who can to attend.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

Next Meeting: March 8th, 2002, Noon - 2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 618 Second Ave
13th Floor Conference Room
Seattle, WA 98104
206/684-0490

Suzanne Wiley, Secretary-Treasurer